hordes so familiar (as far as their, description is concerned) to everybody. The Lemmings do not return from their exodus. They die from various causes, including combats with one another. Their chief foes, however, are Wolves and G-luttons, Buzzards and Havens, Owls and Skuas, which batten on the migrant hordes. Their sudden increase in numbers recalls the similar increase at times of the Field-Vole, to which reference has already been made.

JSlloMiLs is an Old-World genus, which leads a ** Talpine " life, and has in consequence rudimentary external ears and very small eyes. The tail is short. Contrary to what might be expected from its mode of life, the claws upon the digits are not strong.

The remaining genera of Vole-like Murines are *Phenacomys* and *Syn.aptQ'mys* from North America, and *Siphneiis* from Palae-arctic Asia. *ISvotomys* is one of those genera which are common to both the Palaearctic and the Nearctic regions, but the bulk of the species are North American.

Sub-Fain. 9. Bi^modontinae.—This is the name given to another sub-family of Murine Rodents, a group which includes the Hamsters in the Old World as well as a large number of South American genera of Rat-like animals. Of these latter there are a very large number, the bulk of the group being American.

The Hamsters, genus *Cricetus,* as it is usually called, although apparently the correct name is *Hamster,* are Old-World forms of Pouched itats. The Common Hamster, *O. frumentari'us,* is about 210 inm. long, with a tail of 58 mm. It has cheek pouches. The small and the large intestines ,are not very unequal in length, and the caecum is fairly large, being about one-sixth to one-seventh of the length of either. It is a purely vegetable-feeding creature, and in Germany where it occurs (and from which language its vernacular name is derived), hibernates during the winter in its burrow, having previously surrounded itself with a great accumulation of food carried thither.

To North America are peculiar the genera *Ofiychomys, Sig-tnodon,* and *JPerowigseus.* The genus *Sigmodon,* the Cotton Rats,

reaches Central America, and even gets a little farther south. The other two genera, though mainly North American, also extend their range to the south, *Onycfaomys* has hairy foot-